IN THE CLAIMS

For the convenience of the Examiner, all claims have been presented whether or not an amendment has been made. The claims have been amended as follows:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A method for tracking telecommunication services comprising:

receiving **at a filter node** a call packet from a first node **included in a plurality of nodes**, wherein the call packet includes a call identifier identifying a call associated with the call packet;

determining **at the filter node** a filter status of the call;

registering the first node and a second node with the filter node in response to receiving an open message, the open message identifying a node operable to receive messages from the filter node, the registering the first node and the second node enabling the filter node to communicate one or more filter statuses to the registered first and second nodes;

determining at the filter node, based on stored dynamic node information, to which of the plurality of the nodes to transmit one or more notification messages;

transmitting**, based on the determination, the one or more** notification messages **from the filter node** to the first node from which the call packet was received and ~~a~~ **the** second node, wherein the notification messages identify the call identifier and the filter status of the call and wherein the notification messages conform to a protocol that primarily communicates tracking information; and

forwarding the call packet to the second node.

2. **(Canceled)**

3. **(Original)** The method of Claim 2, wherein the open message identifies a hold time for which the open message is valid.

4. **(Original)** The method of Claim 2, further comprising receiving keepalive messages from the identified node, wherein the keepalive messages indicate that the

identified node is still operable to receive notification messages, and wherein transmitting the notification message comprises transmitting the notification message to the identified node based on whether a keepalive message has been received within a predetermined time period.

5. **(Original)** The method of Claim 4, wherein each keepalive messages identifies a hold time for which the keepalive message is valid.

6. **(Original)** The method of Claim 1, wherein determining a filter status of the call comprises determining a filter status of the call based on at least one of a calling number associated with the call, a called number associated with the call, a network address associated with the call, and a carrier associated with the call.

7. **(Currently Amended)** A method for tracking telecommunication services comprising:

receiving a request message at a first filter node from a **first** remote node **included in a plurality of nodes**, wherein the request message includes a call identifier;

in response to receiving the request message, determining**, at the first filter node** whether the first filter node possesses a filter status associated with the call identifier;

registering the first remote node with the filter node in response to receiving an open message, the open message identifying a node operable to receive messages from the first filter node, the registering the first node enabling the first filter node to communicate filter statuses to the registered first remote node;

determining, at the first filter node, based on stored dynamic node information, to which of the plurality of the nodes to transmit one or more acknowledgement messages;

in response to determining that the first filter node possesses a filter status associated with the call identifier:

determining**, at the first filter node,** a filter status associated with the call identifier; and

transmitting an acknowledgement message to the remote node from which the request message was received, wherein the acknowledgement message identifies the filter status and wherein the acknowledgement message conforms to a protocol that primarily communicates tracking information; and

in response to determining that the first filter node does not possess a filter status associated with the call identifier, indicate to the remote node a second filter node that possesses a filter status associated with the call identifier.

8. **(Original)** The method of Claim 7, wherein determining a filter status associated with the call identifier comprises determining a filter status of the call based on at least one of a calling number associated with the call, a called number associated with the call, a network address associated with the call, and a carrier associated with the call.

9. **(Currently Amended)** An apparatus for distributing tracking information comprising:

a network interface operable to:

receive a call packet from a first node **included in a plurality of nodes**, wherein the call packet includes a call identifier identifying a call associated with the call packet;

receive an open message, the open message identifying a node operable to receive one or more notification messages;

a memory operable to store a filter list, wherein the filter list identifies filter statuses associated with one or more call identifiers;

a processor operable ~~to~~ **to:**

determine a filter status of the call based on at least the filter list; ~~and~~

register the first node and a second node with the filter node in response to receiving the open message, the registering the first node and the second node enabling the filter node to communicate one or more filter statuses to the registered first and second nodes; and

determine, based on stored dynamic node information, to which of the plurality of the nodes to transmit one or more notification messages;

wherein the network interface is further operable to:

transmit**, based on the determination, the one or more** notification messages to the first node from which the call packet was received and ~~a~~ **the** second node wherein the notification messages identify the call identifier and the filter status of the call and wherein the notification messages conform to a protocol that primarily communicates tracking information; and

forward the call packet to the second node.

10. **(Canceled)**

11. **(Original)** The apparatus of Claim 10, wherein the open message identifies a hold time for which the open message is valid.

12. **(Original)** The apparatus of Claim 10, wherein the network interface is further operable to receive keepalive messages from the identified node, wherein the keepalive messages indicate that the identified node is still operable to receive notification messages, and wherein the network interface is further operable to transmit the notification message to the identified node based on whether a keepalive message has been received from the identified node within a predetermined time period.

13. **(Original)** The apparatus of Claim 12, wherein the keepalive message identifies a hold time for which the keepalive message is valid.

14. **(Original)** The apparatus of Claim 9, wherein the processor is further operable to determine the filter status of the call based on the filter list and at least one of a calling number associated with the call, a called number associated with the call, a network address associated with the call, and a carrier associated with the call.

15. **(Currently Amended)** An apparatus for distributing tracking information comprising:

a network interface operable to receive a request message from a **first** remote node **included in a plurality of nodes**, wherein the request message includes a call identifier;

a memory operable to store a filter list, wherein the filter list identifies filter statuses associated with one or more call identifiers;

a processor operable ~~to~~ **to:**

determine whether the filter list identifies a filter status associated with the call identifier included in the request message; ~~and~~

registering the first remote node with the filter node in response to receiving an open message, the open message identifying a node operable to receive messages from the first filter node, the registering the first node enabling the first filter node to communicate filter statuses to the registered first remote node; and

determining, at the first filter node, based on stored dynamic node information, to which of the plurality of the nodes to transmit one or more acknowledgement messages;

wherein the network interface is further operable to:

in response to the processor determining that the filter list identifies a filter status associated with the call identifier included in the request message, transmit an acknowledgement message to the remote node from which the request message was received, wherein the acknowledgement message identifies the filter status associated with the call identifier and wherein the acknowledgement message conforms to a protocol that primarily communicates tracking information; and

in response to the processor determining that the filter list does not identify a filter status associated with the call identifier included in the request message, indicate to the remote node a filter node that possesses a filter status associated with the call identifier included in the request message.

16. **(Original)** The apparatus of Claim 15, wherein the processor is further operable to determine the filter status associated with the call identifier based on the filter list and at least an incoming calling number associated with the call, a telephone number

associated with the call, a network address associated with the call, and a carrier associated with the call.

17. **(Currently Amended)** A system for tracking telecommunication services comprising:

a plurality of network nodes;

a filter node operable to:

receive a call packet from a first network node **included in the plurality of network nodes**, wherein the call packet includes a call identifier identifying a call associated with the call packet;

determine a filter status of the call;

register the first network node and a second network node with the filter node in response to receiving an open message, the open message identifying a node operable to receive messages from the filter node, the registering the first node and the second node enabling the filter node to communicate one or more filter statuses to the registered first and second nodes;

determine, based on stored dynamic node information, to which of the plurality of the nodes to transmit one or more notification messages;

transmit notification messages to a the first network node from which the call packet was received and ~~a~~ **the** second network node, wherein the notification messages identify the call identifier and the filter status of the call and wherein the notification messages conform to a protocol that primarily communicates tracking information; and

forward the call packet to the second network node; and

wherein each of the plurality of network nodes is operable to receive the call packet and to take a filter action based on the filter status of the call.

18. **(Canceled)**

19. **(Original)** The system of Claim 18, wherein the open message identifies a hold time for which the open message is valid.

20. **(Original)** The system of Claim 18, wherein one or more network nodes are further operable to transmit keepalive messages to the filter node, wherein the keepalive messages indicate that the network node sending the keepalive message is still operable to

receive notification messages, and wherein the filter node is further operable to transmit the notification message to only network nodes from which the filter node has received a keepalive message within a predetermined time period.

21. **(Previously Presented)** The system of Claim 20, wherein the keepalive message identifies a hold time for which the keepalive message is valid.

22. **(Original)** The system of Claim 17, wherein the filter node is further operable to determine the filter status of the call by determining the filter status of the call based on at least a calling number associated with the call, a called number associated with the call, a network address associated with the call, and a carrier associated with the call.

23. **(Original)** The system of Claim 17, wherein the filter node comprises one of a plurality of filter nodes.

24. **(Currently Amended)** A system for tracking telecommunication services comprising:

a **first** network node **included in a plurality of network nodes, the first network node** operable to transmit a request message wherein the request message includes a call identifier;

a first filter node operable to:

receive the request message;

in response to receiving the request message, determine whether the first filter node possesses a filter status associated with the call identifier;

register the first network node with the filter node in response to receiving an open message, the open message identifying a node operable to receive messages from the first filter node, the registering the first node enabling the first filter node to communicate filter statuses to the registered first remote node;

determine, based on stored dynamic node information, to which of the plurality of the nodes to transmit one or more acknowledgement messages;

in response to determining that the first filter node possesses a filter status associated with the call identifier:

determine a filter status associated with the call identifier; and

transmit an acknowledgement message to the network node from which the request message was received, wherein the acknowledgement message includes filter status information associated with the call identifier and wherein the acknowledgement message conforms to a protocol that primarily communicates tracking information; and

in response to determining that the first filter node does not possess a filter status associated with the call identifier, indicate to the remote node a second filter node that possesses a filter status associated with the call identifier.

25. **(Original)** The system of Claim 24, wherein the filter node is further operable to determine the filter status associated with the call identifier based on at least one of a calling number associated with the call, a telephone number associated with the call, a network address associated with the call, and a carrier associated with the call.

26. **(Original)** The system of Claim 24, wherein the filter node comprises one of a plurality of filter nodes.

27. **(Currently Amended)** A system for tracking telecommunication services comprising:

means for receiving **at a filter node** a call packet from a first node **included in a plurality of nodes**, wherein the call packet includes a call identifier identifying a call associated with the call packet;

means for determining **at the filter node** a filter status of the call; ~~and~~

means for registering the first node and a second node with the filter node in response to receiving an open message, the open message identifying a node operable to receive messages from the filter node, the registering the first node and the second node enabling the filter node to communicate one or more filter statuses to the registered first and second nodes;

means for determining at the filter node, based on stored dynamic node information, to which of the plurality of the nodes to transmit one or more notification messages;

means for transmitting**, based on the determination, the one or more** notification messages **from the filter node** to the first node from which the call packet was received and ~~a~~ **the** second node, wherein the notification messages identify the call identifier and the filter status of the call and wherein the notification messages conform to a protocol that primarily communicates tracking ~~information.~~ **information; and**

means for forwarding the call packet to the second node.

28. **(Currently Amended)** A system for tracking telecommunication services comprising:

means for receiving a request message at a first filter node from a **first** remote node **included in a plurality of nodes**, wherein the request message includes a call identifier;

means for determining**, at the first filter node** whether the first filter node possesses a filter status associated with the call identifier in response to receiving the request message;

registering the first remote node with the filter node in response to receiving an open message, the open message identifying a node operable to receive messages from the first filter node, the registering the first node enabling the first filter node to communicate filter statuses to the registered first remote node;

determining, at the first filter node, based on stored dynamic node information, to which of the plurality of the nodes to transmit one or more acknowledgement messages;

means for, in response to determining that the first filter node possesses a filter status associated with the call identifier:

determining**, at the first filter node** a filter status associated with the call identifier; and

transmitting an acknowledgement message to the remote node from which the request message was received, wherein the acknowledgement message identifies the filter status and wherein the acknowledgement message conforms to a protocol that primarily communicates tracking information; and

means for indicating to the remote node a second filter node that possesses a filter status associated with the call identifier in response to determining that the first filter node does not possess a filter status associated with the call identifier.

29. **(Previously Presented)** The method of Claim 1, further comprising determining a filter action associated with the call based, at least in part, on the filter status of the call.

30. **(Previously Presented)** The method of Claim 29, wherein the filter action comprises selecting an alternate path to a destination node of the call.

31. **(Previously Presented)** The method of Claim 29, wherein the filter action comprises delivering the call to a destination node and a third node.

32. **(Currently Amended)** The method of Claim ~~2~~ 1, wherein the open message further identifies one or more types of filter statuses that the network node is capable of receiving and one or more types of messages that the network node is capable of receiving.

33. **(Previously Presented)** The apparatus of Claim 9, wherein the processor is further operable to determine a filter action associated with the call based, at least in part, on the filter status of the call.

34. **(Previously Presented)** The apparatus of Claim 33, wherein the filter action comprises selecting an alternate path to a destination node of the call.

35. **(Previously Presented)** The apparatus of Claim 33, wherein the filter action comprises delivering the call to a destination node and a third node.

36. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus of Claim ~~10~~ 9, wherein the open message further identifies one or more types of filter statuses that the network node is capable of receiving and one or more types of messages that the network node is capable of receiving.

37. **(Previously Presented)** The system of Claim 17, wherein the filter node is further operable to determine a filter action associated with the call based, at least in part, on the filter status of the call.

38. **(Previously Presented)** The system of Claim 37, wherein the filter action comprises selecting an alternate path to a destination node of the call.

39. **(Previously Presented)** The system of Claim 37, wherein the filter action comprises delivering the call to a destination node and a monitoring node.

40. **(Currently Amended)** The system of Claim ~~18~~ 17, wherein the open message further identifies one or more types of filter statuses that the network node sending the open message is capable of receiving and one or more types of messages that the network node sending the open message is capable of receiving.